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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 30, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2001, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for 5 minutes.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES TO RESPOND TO TRUE NEEDS OF AMERICANS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, many years ago I was attending church with my father in the early 1960s; and he pointed to a gentleman sitting in the back of the church whom he had gone to high school with, and my dad said during World War II, when my dad and most people in the community went off to war, my dad told me this gentleman stayed home, feigned some injury and made a lot of money during the war. My dad referred to him, the

first time I heard that term, as a war profiteer.

I remember the night of September 11, 2001, when service stations around my district in Ohio and other States in the Midwest, when gas station owners raised their price on that evening to \$4, \$5, \$6 a gallon, also something you might call war profiteering.

Then I have watched this Congress respond to the events of September 11; and while in many cases the Congress and the President have worked well together, bipartisanly, putting differences aside, I have seen that same kind of profiteering, let us call it political profiteering, in the way that many people in the majority party have acted in response to September 11.

For instance, Congress spent \$15 billion to bail out America's airlines. They required no shared sacrifice from the executives, no give-backs from executives in bonuses and salaries. They spent not a dollar on airport security in this \$15 billion gift to the airlines, and they gave nothing to the 100,000 workers laid off as a result of September 11.

Turn the clock up a little bit further and look at what happened last week when Congress considered the bill to stimulate our economy. Instead of taking care of workers through health insurance, instead of taking care of laid off workers with unemployment compensation, instead of taking care of workers who got no tax break, people making \$20,000 to \$40,000 a year, instead of taking care of them, this Congress again, in the name of answering the problems of September 11, this Congress again gave huge tax cuts to the richest people in our society.

Eighty-nine percent of the tax relief in the Republican stimulus package went to tax breaks for corporations, including a \$25 billion gift to the largest companies in the country. IBM got \$1 billion, General Motors got between \$800 million and \$900 million in checks

from the Federal Government, all in the name of let us take care of September 11 and what is happening with the economy.

Now we are seeing some leaders in this Congress, particularly Republican leaders in the Committee on Ways and Means and the Speaker, have said that in order to counter terrorism, we need to pass Fast Track, we need to give Trade Promotion Authority to the President, we need to extend NAFTA to Latin America.

So what we are saying is we are sending our young men and women in harm's way in Afghanistan; then when they come back to this country looking for jobs, some of those jobs will have been sent abroad because this Congress has passed failed trade agreements for those workers laid off. There is not unemployment compensation; there is no help with their health care.

When you talk about the events of September 11, Mr. Speaker, most of us talk about shared sacrifice. When this Nation has been troubled in World War I and World War II, there was shared sacrifice. Wealthy people actually paid a higher proportion of taxes, working people got some breaks on their taxes, working people got some benefits.

This is all different this year; and the response to September 11, we have seen that kind of political profiteering from the majority party. When Democrats have worked with the President bipartisanly, we have seen instead bailouts for the airlines with nothing for the airline workers; we have seen tax cuts for the richest people in our society, but no health care for laid-off workers; no tax breaks for middle-income and working-class workers. And now this week we are going to see an ideological battle where the most conservative members of this body, in opposition to bipartisan legislation in the Senate, with airline security, we are going to see Republicans in the House continuing to try to push forward a failed airline security bill.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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